

I am writing to you concerning Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and as I understand, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, Sinclair Broadcasting, which owns both WTTE 28 (FOX), and WSYX 6 (ABC) stations in my area have repeatedly manipulated the airwaves to promote their own political agenda. Back in April of this year Sinclair Broadcasting ordered their ABC stations to block the NIGHTLINE broadcast that was to pay tribute to the fallen troops that have recently died serving our country. Now Sinclair Broadcasting has scheduled on October 22 a show called "Stolen Honor" which is a negative attack on John Kerry. Unless these stations show an equally negative attack on George W. Bush or an equally positive show about John Kerry soon after the "Stolen Honor", I see no reason that their license should be renewed. In fact it appears to be a clear reason to have their license immediately revoked.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules and why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you
Vincent M. Riley